

tion programs will improve the health of our people, and education programs will give all tribal members the tools they need for a prosperous life and a promising future.

Our greatest accomplishments this year have been in building relationships. Better working relationships between Executive and Legislative branches—and between the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and local, state and federal governments—mean progress rather than conflict.

Our government is accountable to the people of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and the most important relationship we've built over the last year is the relation-

ship between the government and the people. We will continue to build that relationship in the coming year and beyond. That is a solemn promise as we heal and move forward in a positive direction for the Tsistsistas & Hino-no'ei.

Happy and Healthy New Year to all the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. We are honored to serve you and look forward to building on this momentum for another year of growth, progress and unity.



Lucky Star Casinos donated more than \$77,000 for the Tribes' Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM) to assist tribal students with educational support items. The funds were raised with the support of the casinos' Player's Club members.



Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes' television station, CATV47, received the Big Bird Partnership Award from OETA for its contribution to the "Native Oklahoma" program. (From left to right) CATV Producer, Mark Welch; Director, Randy Burleson; Governor Eddie Hamilton; OETA Executive Producer, Dan Schiedel; Lt. Governor Cornell Sankey; Education Department Executive Director, Funston Whiteman; and CATV Videographer, Darren Brown.



Tribal children receive supplies during the Department of Education's Back to School Bash



CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES 2014

Year of Progress

Together, the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes have made incredible progress over the past year. New executive leadership has seen an improved relationship with the legislative branch and a more honest and open dialogue with tribal members. Great things have happened in 2014, and now is the time to pull together, build on that momentum, and reach for new heights in the New Year.

150 Year Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration



events Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 including the 16th Annual Spiritual Healing Run beginning in Eads, Colo., and ending on the steps of the Colorado State Capitol in Denver, where Lt. Gov. Cornell Sankey delivered an emotional and impactful speech.

Lt. Gov. Sankey memorialized the victims and the survivors of the massacre, and told the audience

While looking to the future, the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes also commemorated a tragic and pivotal moment from our past. More than 1,000 people from across the world met at the Sand Creek National Historic site in Colorado to honor the nearly 200 men, women and children who perished at the site on November 29, 1864.

Cheyenne & Arapaho tribal leadership and members participated in commemorative

Ahk-ta-na-hi Goodblanket, son of Melissa & Wilbur Goodblanket.



how far the tribes have come since that dark day. He concluded with a call to remember the victims each day and honor them by continuing to build on the progress of the last 150 years.

"Through so much adversity, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have persevered," he said. "We have found success in the wake of sorrow. We have not given up, and we face each new day with hope. In that lies our greatest tribute to the victims of the Sand Creek Massacre. The Cheyenne





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—Lt. Governor Cornell Sankey

& Arapaho Tribes celebrate our heritage and traditions while building a better life for our children and grandchildren. Today, we can offer new generations the prosperity and the peace for which our ancestors gave so much.”

Special recognition goes to the Culture and Heritage Department, for without them, this event would not have been such a success.

Tribal Nations Conference

Also on December 3, Governor Eddie Hamilton attended the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference, hosted by President Obama at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. The conference provided leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact with the President and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

This was the sixth White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration.

“The annual Tribal Nations Conference is an opportunity for tribal leaders to speak with President Obama and the highest levels of his administration about the issues that are of concern to tribes across the country,” Gov. Hamilton said. “Through better communication, we can build understanding and a stronger government-to-government relationship that will benefit the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and all Native Americans.”

A Year of Progress

Each decision made in the executive office begins with the question, “how will this help our people?” With that in mind, we have cut unnecessary expenditures to create a more efficient and responsive government and provide more services to the people.

In the past year, over \$1.8 million in executive salaries have been eliminated. In addition, new casino management and reorganization has created substantial cost savings for the Tribes.

Those savings allowed us to increase the minimum wage by 24% to \$9 an hour and also provide a 4% cost of living allowance increase to tribal employees.

Other steps have been taken to ensure that the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes are a great employer. We strive to provide a drug and alcohol free work place and we want our employees to enjoy their jobs. As well as provide a pleasant environment for tribal members to conduct their business while at the tribal complex. Employees now have more say in the workplace; each department now chooses their own uniforms and they vote on their department/program Employee of the Month. We are also developing a program that will allow employees to go back to school to earn a degree or certificate.

To build a family environment, employees plan potluck dinners for fun or special occasions like birth-



Jessica Youngbear, a single mother of five small children, receives a turkey and other food items from Lt. Gov. Cornell Sankey and Gov. Eddie Hamilton in the spirit of Thanksgiving.



days and holidays. That goodwill is even spreading to the tribal community at large, as more than 100 families were provided a Thanksgiving dinner with food donated by our employees.

Services to tribal members have increased, too. This year Elder Care food vouchers increased from \$100 to \$150, and an additional \$100 in November and \$150 in December were provided to tribal elders age 55 and older, just in time for the holiday season.

Additionally, we’ve seen progress on capital projects, too. Through a joint venture, the Cheyenne & Arapaho



Department of Health and the Clinton Indian Health Services (I.H.S.) reopened the El Reno Indian Clinic on May 30th; a date very significant as it marked almost one year to the day the former El Reno Clinic was destroyed by a massive tornado. This state of the art medical clinic is now meeting the health needs of tribal members and is a true sign of progress for our tribal community and the state of Oklahoma. New storm shelters at the day care and child care centers in Concho and Clinton now ensure the safety of our children. At the Concho campus, new exterior signs mark the completion of phase one renovations.



We are a community, and each of us should have a say in where and how our money is being spent. New shareholder meetings ensure that every tribal member has a voice. Through shareholder meetings, tribal members have more say in their government and the allocation of our resources than ever before.

Moving Forward

The next year will see more hard work on behalf of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. From providing the tools for self-sufficiency to strengthening our cultural identity through language revitalization and youth programs, there are ambitious plans for our future. Preven-



Gov. Eddie Hamilton visits with tribal Elders at a Halloween party hosted by the R.E.Sp.E.C.T Program.